

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
POWER  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5808

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2010

POWER THEFT

Kataria Shri Lal Chand;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

**Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the cases of power theft is increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details of loss of electricity in terms of Megawatt in the country as a result thereof during the last three years and the current year, State/UT- wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring changes in the Electricity Act, 2003 to make stringent provisions for punishment for the offences like theft of power in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER(SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI)

(a) & (b): Theft of electricity is one of the major contributing factors impacting the financial health of power utilities. This also contributes to poor quality of power supply, frequent load shedding and unscheduled outages. State Government is responsible for the distribution sector and losses are primarily in the distribution segment. Power theft is reflected in T&D losses. It is difficult to segregate the technical & commercial losses from T&D losses and even more difficult to segregate theft from commercial losses. T&D losses as measure of grid losses were replaced with AT&C losses for better clarity. States/ UT wise Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses for the year 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 as contained in the 6th 'Report on Performance of State Power Utilities' published by Power Finance Corporation are given at Annex- A.

(c) & (d): Government of India, Ministry of Power has amended Section 135 and Section 151 of the Electricity Act, 2003 through the Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2007 making the offence punishable under Section 135-140 and Section 150 as cognizable and non-bailable. Moreover powers have been vested with the police officer in line with Chapter XII of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974). The definition of theft has been expanded under Section 135 to cover use of tampered meters and use of electricity for unauthorized purpose by insertion of provision (d) and (e) under Section 135(1) of Electricity Act, 2003.